WOMONSPACE

The voice of Womonspace to the lesbian community of Edmonton

NEWS

DYKE BAR

THE OTHER PERSUASION

Lesbianism: A Socialist Feminist Perspective

LESBIAN SEXUALITY

Disabled Lesbians

The Lesbian Reader
AN AMAZON QUARTERLY ANTHOLOGY

Lesbians at Work

SAPPHO

POLITICALLY CORRECT, POLITICALLY INCORRECT SEXUALITY

A Few Thoughts about Lesbian Sex, Politics and Community Standards

SUGGESTED READINGS

FROM Ms. TO S/M

Coming Out

LESBIAN MUSIC

Lesbian / Woman

Womenfriends

Lesbian Mothers: A Challenge in Family Living

BEYOND THE GAY/STRAIGHT SPLIT: DO SEXUAL "ROLES" (BUTCH/FEMME) TRANSCEND SEXUAL PREFERENCE?

Sept. 84
Vol. 2
No. 9

"SUGGESTED READINGS" by Lindy Pratch

Editorial ~

GUEST EDITORIAL

Womonspace... whatever possesed our founding sisters to call Edmonton's own lesbian organization 'Womonspace'? Are there not words in our vocabulary to describe a place where womyn may gather to share ideas and feel good doing a variety of silly and serious things? One must deduce that after intensive research in English, Latin, Greek, and Lesbos dictionaries, no such word was found.

In a way, it is not at all surprising that no existing words could hold up the weight of some one hundred womyn bent on improving the world for their sister lesbians. Our society was not created for womyn uniting and doing things. We have long ago been taught that one cannot change the world. "OTHERS" rule and dictate what we must and mustn't do, manage our money and set our dreams.

The time has come, however, for this attitude to change. Every womon has within her the capabilities to do great deeds and Womonspace wants to supply the needed "space" and support. Hundreds of worthwhile projects are discussed at the Roost, at dances, in lesbians' homes and at Womonspace meetings. Unfortunately, very few ever get organized. The basic problem is rarely a lack of support or a lack of funds (yes, Womonspace does have a healthy bank account!). That which is lacking is womyn to stand up and say: "I will organize a ski trip."; "I'm looking for two other womyn to start a Human Rights committee."; "I'd like to negotiate a week-end womyn's night at the club. Do I have Womonspace's support?"

Womonspace's activities and programs are not dictated by some holy writ. They are conceived and acted upon by lesbian womyn who have decided to spare some of their time for the good of other lesbians. No one political idea is pushed upon anyone. I have never witnessed such a diverse group of persons working together. Conservatives, radicals, feminists, traditionalists, closet cases, clubbies, mothers, "older" lesbians, professionals, students, and yes, even posties. All can find a space within Womonspace.

As you all settle down to your work routines after a relaxing summer (some of us apparently enjoyed holidays!) please consider what time you can set aside for a good deed to the lesbian community. It might be a half-day a month, six hours in October or a few minutes here and there. All this time can be effectively used for the planning of an activity or for serving on a committee. Womonspace needs all the energy that the lesbians of Edmonton can spare.

Let's pull together and make Womonspace a true reflection of the lesbian community of Edmonton.

Agathe
President of Womonspace

♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀ ♀

EDITOR'S NOTE: Every woman has a right to her opinion. Responses to this letter are welcome. In particular, submissions from anyone with a good knowledge of Catholic doctrine are invited. Let's get the facts that apply to birth control and homosexuality in the Catholic Church.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

* * *

The following letter refers to the editorial in the July issue of WOMONSPACE NEWS. It is presented here in its original grammatical form.

* * *

Dear Editor;

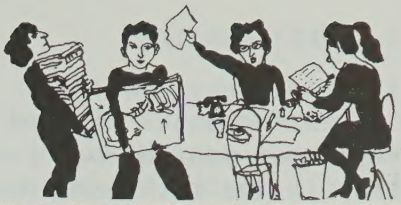
I can truly understand that you do not like the Catholic Church very much. It is against the religion to be gay and birth control is not prohibited. From what I have heard, it is not, but why should you care since, logically, you don't seem to be Catholic. I am a Catholic woman and from what I read, you seem to be extremely unfair. Haven't you heard that the Catholic Church have abolished a lot of these rules? I have never heard such thing as gay people will be "punished" a lot more than straight people, but maybe I am wrong. I maybe Catholic but I am not very religious.

I was wondering about your "Our society (created by men for men)" thing, well, I don't believe such a "thing". Women, nowadays, can become whatever they want to be. Women don't "have" to get married, there is a lot of unmarried women, and no one rolls their eyes upward and whisper: "Oh! God!"

I don't know what men have done to you, but you don't seem to "love" them very much. For my part, I think that men are starting to get exposed and I feel very sorry for them. Everything that happens, we blame it on men, and we go on talking about it for months, years after it happened. I just want to be equal to them not higher. For my part, most of my best friends are men. No offense to Feminism or Lesbianism.

Yours truly,
Louise Levesque

P.S. I hope I am not shocking you for getting a letter from a feminist non-lesbian.



ELECTIONS!

Nominations for all positions on the Board of Directors for Womonspace will be taken at the September general meeting. The elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting which takes place on September 26. The positions on the board are as follows:

PRESIDENT - Chairperson, signing officer and spokesperson for Womonspace.

VICE-PRESIDENT - Act as president in her absence, head a committee, act as a liason between other organizations and Womonspace.

SECRETARY - Take and keep minutes of all meetings, keep records, handle and organize all correspondence.

TREASURER - Receive all revenues, be responsible for all receipts and all disbursements, a monthly financial statement, an annual audited statement.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE OF MEMBERSHIP Keep accurate membership list, notify members of deadline for renewal, receive and forward membership funds to treasurer, keep record of volunteer hours worked by each member.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE OF ACTIVITIES Promote cultural entertainment and recreation for the members.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS - Spokesperson for Womonspace in conjunction with the president, public statements on Womonspace policies and positions, arrange and promote educational events related to the objectives of Womonspace and those which increase the body of knowledge on lesbianism.

G.A.L.A. QUESTIONNAIRE

Question 1. When your landlord needs to enter your home for repairs -- do you worry about your Womonspace newsletter in the bathroom or suddenly realize that your taste in art seems to run to lots of pictures of naked women -- or do you think about ruffling the spare bed so that it looks slept in?

Yes__ No__ Sometimes__

Question 2. Do you resent being closeted at work -- and not being able to take your "Ms Wonderful" to office parties with ease?

Yes__ No__ Sometimes__

Question 3. Does it seem ludicrous to you that being fired for being pregnant does not constitute discrimination based on gender?

Yes__ No__ Sometimes__

Question 4. Do you feel that simply by declaring yourself a lesbian you are somehow less worthy of civil rights that before you did so?

Yes__ No__ Sometimes__

If you answered Yes or Sometimes to Questions 1,2,3 and No to Question 4, you are a prime candidate to join us in the work to get the Individual Rights Protection Code of Alberta amended this fall so that we as lesbians and womon will have ourselves protected as our non-gay sisters presently are (except for situation #3, where sexuality is not an issue).

The GALA '84 Steering Committee is continuing its work -- incurable work horses that we are -- and welcome you to put some of your indignation and anger to good purpose and work with us.

We promise interesting meetings, probably lots of them for the next while (the Bill comes up in the fall sitting of the House), diverse tasks (you name it and we'll try it) and with a lot of luck, new laws. With less luck, you'll have known that at least you cared enough about your very own self to put out some energy -- and that feels great!

Contact GALA '84 through me, Liz Massiah 422-3022(w) or 481-5973(h).

EARN EXTRA MONEY!

VAN TENDERS

We have been renting vans from Hertz or Budget to transport liquor for our Womonspace dances. In an effort to keep our money within the lesbian community, Womonspace is now accepting tenders for van or covered truck rentals. The woman and her vehicle must be available on the day of the dance to pick up the liquor and take it to the hall. After the dance the liquor returns will remain in her possesion until the following Monday, when she will be responsible for returning them.

Send tenders to Womonspace, c/o E.W.P., 9926 - 112 St. T5K 1L7

NOTE

DANCE

Did you miss not having the dances this summer? Then get down to Hazeldean to get dancing! The next Womonspace dance is September 15th and they will continue to be held on the third Saturday of each month. Fun starts at 8 pm and continues until 1 am. Bring your Womonspace membership card to get a discount on the admission.

FOUND:
ONE NATURAL HOTSPRING

For the past four months I had been hearing from the members of our gay and lesbian community of the presence of a non-commercialized hot spring some 20 miles from Radium, B.C. These springs, hidden on some mountainside, were considered the place to go relax with your favorite friend. While planning a trip to Cranbrook a few weeks ago I desperately tried to get directions to this heavenly spot only to realize no lesbian had yet discovered its exact location.

Well ladies... they have finally been discovered! In a simple gesture of generosity I shall now share with you the exact location of these hot pools.

Go 52 km. south of Radium on Highway 93/95. Just out of Canal Flats watch for the sign to "Top of The World Prov. Park." Turn left onto the logging road which doubles as access to this park. Go up this road for ½ an hour to Whiteswan Lake area. Take the right fork for another ½ hour of bone-jarring, dusty dirt road to something that looks like a major intersection--no, you shouldn't have reached the top of the world yet. Turn right, if you dare, and go down this trail for another 15 minutes. At the bottom of a 75 degree hill you will come upon two emerald green pools of pure hot spring water. Strip, jump in and ... thank God you're still alive!

Words of advice: Bring a lunch and camping supplies--you'll probably never want to face the drive back to civilization. Do not attempt this trek on a weekday--this is logging truckers' country! Forget your VW: Jeeps, trucks and Volvos only!!

Agathe

AIDS

An AIDS Support Network is being developed for the person who is Edmonton's first case of AIDS. Anyone interested in becoming part of the network is asked to leave a message on the phone line - Liz will put you in touch with someone.

JO ANN

Donation to the Womonspace library from Lorene Benkie, mother of Jo Ann Benkie --

Jo Ann was a Lesbian who committed suicide and this book was donated because Lorene felt it might help other Lesbians or those who have suffered loss of a loved one and also because Jo Ann knew some of the women involved in the Lesbian community here.

Note: The book will be kept at the Womonspace office until a sign-out procedure is in place.

P.M.S.

We've been talking about organizing a P.M.S. (Pre-Menstrual Syndrome) workshop but for anyone who needs help now there's a support group meeting at E.W.P. on the first Thurs. of every month. It's open to all women.

SECOND WREATH

The relationship between ethnicity and feminism will be examined at the Second Wreath conference, to be held in Edmonton during the Thanksgiving weekend (October 5-7) 1985. This will be one of many themes explored by the conference. Organizers have planned Second Wreath to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the women's movement in Ukraine. Preliminary activities will be held this year in December.

For additional information please contact: Sonia Maryn, 432-0685; Myra Pastyr, 439-0633; Halyna Freeland, 474-1146; Teresa Warenycia 476-8525.

LADIES AGAINST WOMEN

As is often the case, when Phyllis Schlafly recently spoke in Knoxville, TN, she was greeted by the local chapter of Ladies Against Women (LAW). Using satire as their form of protest, the Ladies were properly dressed (as all ladies must be when they find themselves in the public eye). They held "supportive" signs such as, "We worship Phyllis, she's our man", "Roses are red/Violets are blue/ Sperm & eggs are people too - Protect the right of the Unconceived", and one banner featuring a drawing of a wire coat hanger with the words "Let's go back to the good old days - Ban Legalized Abortion Now". The group handed out LAW membership cards with the slogan, "I'd rather be ironing", and a line for the husband's permission signature, which the card must have to be valid. Gaily colored buttons with the slogan, "Born to Clean" were also distributed to any lady who would take one.

A Newsletter
via Lesbian Connection

GROUP EXPERIENCE THERAPY

Professional therapist is prepared to offer a group experience for lesbian couples or individuals this fall. Fees would be reasonable and areas covered could include couple communication, role expectations, relationship stages and expectations; being OK with being being single; anger and violence.

Leave your name and number on tha phoneline (488-2918) or contact Liz Massiah M.S.W. at 422-3022(w) or 481-5973(h).

Elizabeth MASSIAH M.S.W.

Feminist Therapist

- Individuals, Couples, Groups
- Flexible Fees, Times

Edmonton 422-3022(w)
481-5973(h)

MEETING PLANNING

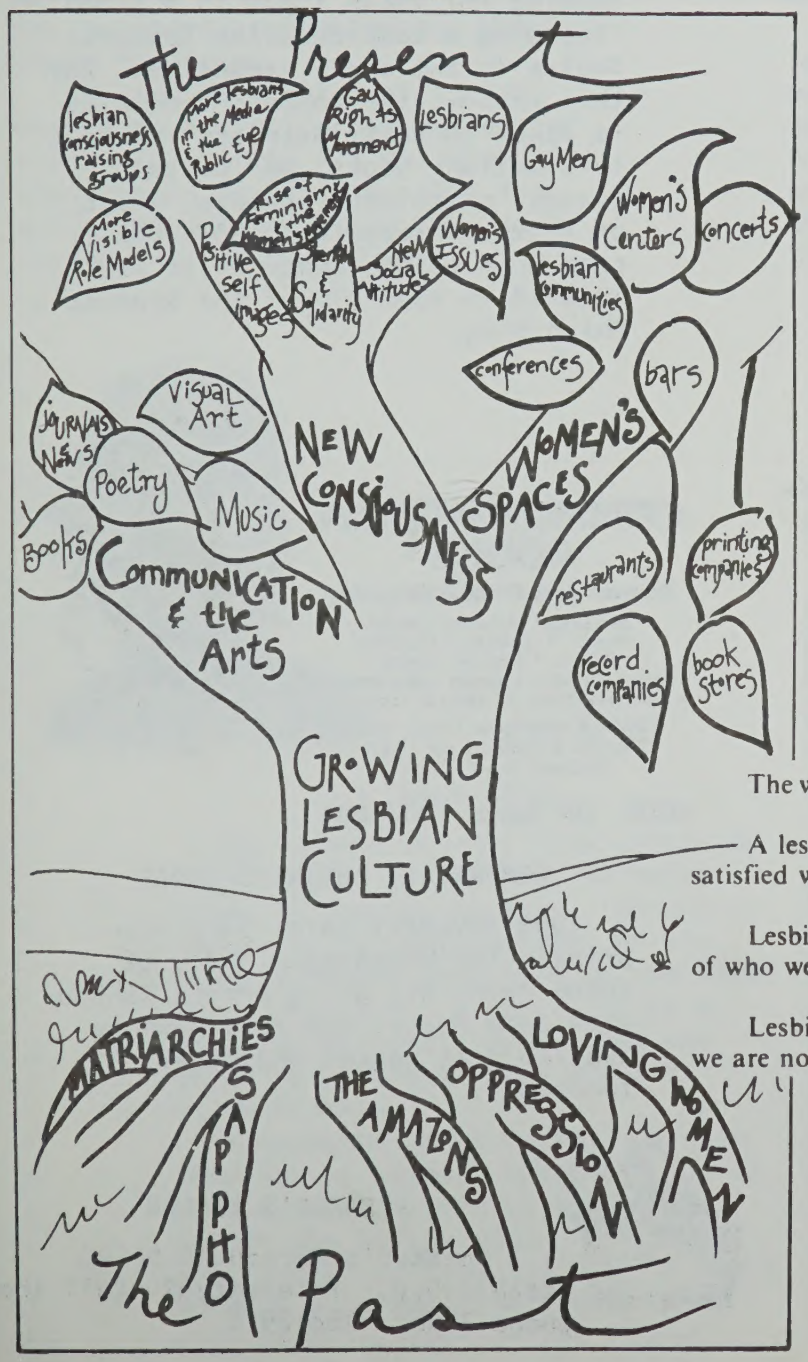
Recommendations adopted at the August general meeting, RE: General Meetings;

* Prepared, priorized agendas
* All committee recommendations to be presented as motions to be discussed and voted upon
* Ten minute limit for discussion on each agenda item (items could be deferred to end of meeting)
* Any proposal requiring an expenditure of over $100 must be presented to the board for study prior to presentation at a general meeting. (A specific motion made for this last point was tabled till September due to lack of Quorum.)

EXCERPTS from "The Lesbian Primer"

by Liz Diamond

LESBIAN CULTURE TREE



WANTED : PHOTOGRAPHS

WOMONSPACE NEWS would rather use photos and graphics produced by women in our community than lift materials from published works. Please send us photos and drawings that express your lesbian-vision. Black & white reproduces better but colour is acceptable. If people are recognizable, get their written permission for us so we can use the photograph.

The word *culture* comes from the Latin verb *colere* -to till.

A lesbian is a woman whose needs are most completely satisfied with other women only.

Lesbian culture is the continuous development and support of who we are, rooted in shared experience.

Lesbian culture is how we nourish one another and how we are nourished.

U OF A WOMEN'S CENTRE

The University of Alberta Women's Centre received a grant from the federal government this spring. The Centre used it to hire 6 people; 3 to establish a resource centre, and 3 to write a handbook. These projects are meant to increase the awareness of people towards the conditions of women in our society, and on our campus.

The Women's Centre handbook is currently being completed. It begins with an article outlining the history of the women's movement on the U of A compus, leading up to the aspirations of the Centre for the coming year. Following this article is an alphabetical listing of, and comment on, some of the services and issues which directly involve women. (i.e. Accessibility, Birth Control, Counselling, etc.) Under each letter there will be space for personal phone numbers and addresses. It is hoped that by making the handbook useful, including a cadendar and room for notes, people will be encouraged to keep it with them throughout the year. Funding is limited, however. If anyone has ideas of ways to raise money, or would like to make a donation, please contact the Centre.

The Women's Centre is also putting together a Resource Centre composed of a library and filing system. Because the purpose of the Resource Centre is to educate people on women's issues, we are maintaining two focuses when looking for materials. First on the list is information which shall stimulate a desire in the community to develop an active concern for women's issues. Consequently, we hope to acquire the classics of feminist reading.

Our second focus is on academic materials which we expect will help students research term-papers on women's issues. We are looking for information on feminist philosophies, psychology, and literature; on the history of the suffrage movement, particularly in Canada; and on violence against women. Again, funding for these ideas is a problem; financing a comprehensive Resource Centre is extremely expensive. For this reason, the women's community is asked to contribute any relevant information: books, periodicals, essays, pamphlets, posters, music, or films. Please call 432-2882 or come down to the Centre. It is located in room 270 of the Student's Union Bldg.

COMMON WOMAN BOOKS

Alberta's Only Feminist Bookstore

non-sexist children's books
records * jewelry * t-shirts
fiction * feminist theory
overcoming male & female stereotypes
a good selection of lesbian literature

Tuesday & Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday & Fnday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

8208 - 104 Street 432-9344

WOMONSPACE BUSINESS CARDS

1000 lavender cards have been printed for Womonspace. 200 of these cards are going across Canada with Jude Major, the rest will be available at dances and other functions.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

A Speaker's Bureau is being established. Interested? Call the phone line: 488-2918.

$500 GRANTS

Two Womonspace grants have been awarded this year, each in the amount of $500. One went to Jude Major who is preparing a Lesbian National Tour Guide. This will be a compilation of gay positive organizations across Canada. Jude is already on her way across the country, gathering information and distributing our Womonspace brochures.

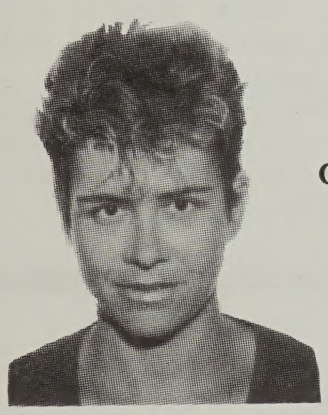
The second grant went to Pat Weston to assist in her pursuit of excellence in the VII World Wheel Chair Games in England. See the article headlined 'Gold Medal' for the results of her efforts.

WOMONSPACE AND WOMONSPACE NEWS

Womonspace is its members. You are Womonspace. Your participation directs what happens in the group.

WOMONSPACE NEWS is the voice of Womonspace. It is your voice only if you are there to speak at meetings and/or if you are writing contributions to the newsletter.

Submissions of interest to lesbian women are welcome from both members and non-members. Our deadline is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue. Please mail your submissions to WOMONSPACE NEWS, c/o E.W.P., 9926 - 112 St. T5K 1L7.



CONGRATULATIONS PAT

GOLD MEDAL

Pat Weston and her team mates won a gold medal in the 4 X 100 metre relay in Stokes, England. Congratulations! Pat also entered in the first marathon ever held at the Wheel Chair Olympics. After 12 miles a cable in her chair broke, but she still came through with a fifth place finish.

A marathon is being held here in Edmonton on Sunday, September 2. Be at Churchill Square to cheer Pat across the finish line. The first chairs will probably come in at about 9:20 am. An awards creemony will take place at noon in the square.

GATE NEWS

Women's night at GATE has been changed to Wednesdays. Drop-in at 10173 - 104 St. between 7 and 10 pm.

GATE

GAY ALLIANCE TOWARD EQUALITY

10173·104 St. EDMONTON (403)424-8361

·DROP-IN CENTRE
·PEER COUNSELLING
·SPEAKERS' BUREAU
·CIVIL RIGHTS
·SOCIAL EVENTS
·LIBRARY

SUPPORT GROUP FOR LESBIAN MOMS

I would like to start a support group for Lesbian Moms. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the group. My number is 475-5650. Claire Berrette.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR SINGLE WOMEN

I would like to start a support group for single women. If anyone is interested in being part of this group please call Donna Mumm at Every Woman's Place. The number is 488-2748.

RADIO SHOW

Another phone-in radio show will be held on the Dick Maclean show on CFRN sometime in September. The last one reached a lot of women. Stay tuned to the phone line for details.

WEN-DO WORKSHOP

Womonspace is sponsoring a one or two day Wen-Do workshop October 27/28, 1984 (tentative dates). It will be held at the Bissel Centre and will be a beginner level workshop; all womon are welcome.

Wen-Do is a system of self-defense designed for womon; many members of our community have been involved in Wen-Do and report increased self-confidence and a stronger sense of security. The workshop includes both theory and hands-on learning.

This workshop will not be restricted to Womonspace members only. Womonspace donated $200 to Wen-Do early in 1984 and this workshop will be subsidized for Womonspace members. Final details are not confirmed; contace Ann at 488-8457 or leave your name on the Womonspace phone line. At least three persons are required for the workshop; mazimum is 20, so make your plans early.

LESBIAN DROP-IN

Every Thursday is drop-in night from 7 - 9 at Every Woman's Place. (9926 - 112 Street) All women are welcome.

LESBIAN TALK NIGHT

Last Thursday night of each month
7 - 9 p.m. (or later)
Every Woman's Place

Gather for an evening to discuss issues of lesbianism/feminism. Bring your suggestions for topics (ideas, articles, books to read, etc) At the end of each evening we choose our topic for the next Lesbian Talk Night and decide if we need to distribute reading materials.

Thursday, August 30th, our topic is "First Public Coming Out".

Activities -

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our annual policy making meeting is coming up soon. Members must have attended one general meeting since October 1983 in order to vote at the A.G.M. It will be held Wednesday, September 26 at 7 pm, upstairs at The Roost. (10345-104 St.)

This is the most important meeting of the year. Subjects discussed will include: an activities report; the annual financial report; and major policy changes. In addition the ELECTIONS for all board positions will be held at this meeting.

NEWSLETTER MEETING

The next newsletter meeting will be held on Sunday, September 16, 6:30 pm at Jeanne's. (#1, 10739-86 Avenue) If you would like to help with WOMONSPACE NEWS, but cannot come to the meeting, you are welcome to phone Lindy at 469-2143 and talk to her about what you can do.

DANCE CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED

Training provided. All you need is a bit of energy. Interested? Talk to Lorna at the September 15th dance at Hazeldean.

REFERRALS

Womonspace is currently establishing a system of referrals to lesbian-positive service people, such as: lawyers, psychologists, doctors, and other service people. If you know anyone who you think should be on this list, please call Laura at 429-2355.

GENERAL MEETING

General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at E.W.P. at 7:30 pm. Next one is Sept. 11th. If you haven't been to a general meeting since October 1983, this will be your last chance to validate your right to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

PR DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

The next PR Directions Committee meeting will be on Monday, September 10th at 5:30 pm at Linda's. Phone ahead: 454-0588. the address is 11128-125 Street.

DANCE MEETING

The meeting is being held to update the co-ordinators' books. Former co-ordinators are urged to attend. Tuesday, September 18 at 7:30pm, E.W.P.

VOLUNTEERS

Womonspace always needs volunteers. There is a need right now for women who are willing to help out with the September dance. Leave your name on The phone line: 488-2918.

love is...

... Doing volunteer work.

WOMONSPACE DANCE

HAZELDEAN HALL ~ 9630 - 66 AVENUE

Sept. 15

8pm - 2am

Adm. - Members $5
Non — $6

NEW EDITOR

With pride, appreciation, and anticipation, the newsletter committee welcomes ***Lindy Pratch*** *as our new editor. Lindy has been working on the newletter since its second issue (over a year and a half) and her experience on the newsletter and her committment to the lesbian community will certainly help make* ***WOMONSPACE NEWS*** *even better.*

PLEASE NOTE:
Articles published in Womonspace News do not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of Womonspace.

Credits:

Organization & Typing: Lindy Pratch

Contributions by:
Lindy Pratch
Agathe
L.J.B.
Liz Massiah
Jeanne Peneault

Layout & Pasteup: L.K.R., D.P.

Camera, Stripping & Opaquing
L.K.R.

Collating & Distribution
M.T. Hughes, L.K.R.

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☎ 488-2918

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